



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

SEP 25 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL 7015 3010 0000 3883 2979

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN THE MATTER OF: Advance Manufacturing Group U.S.A., Inc., dba OBX Racing Sports

Advance Manufacturing Group U.S.A., Inc., dba OBX Racing Sports
6195 Coliseum Way, Suite F
Oakland, CA 94621

ATTENTION: Peter Tsai, Operation Manager and Registered Agent

Request for Information Under § 208(a) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7542(a)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby requires Advance Manufacturing Group U.S.A., Inc., dba OBX Racing Sports ("AMG" or "you") to submit certain information as part of an EPA investigation to determine AMG's compliance with Section 203 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7522, and the applicable regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 85, 86, and 1068. Examples of vehicles regulated under these Parts include, but are not limited to, light-duty vehicles. Appendix A provides definitions for some of the terms used in this request, Appendix B provides instructions for your responses to this request, and Appendix C specifies the information that you must submit.

The EPA is issuing this Request for Information under Section 208(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7542(a). Under Section 208(a), the Administrator of the EPA may require any person who is subject to the CAA to provide information necessary to determine whether the person has acted in compliance with these requirements and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the undersigned Manager of Region 9's Air & TRI Section, Enforcement Division.

You must submit responses to this Request for Information within (30) calendar days from the date you receive this letter. Please carefully review the instructions, definitions, and specific requests as you prepare your response. If you anticipate being unable to fully respond to this Request for Information by this date, you must contact Janice Chan at (415) 972-3308 to request an extension. Any such request must explain why an extension is necessary and include a proposed timeline for providing the requested information. The EPA will review your request and may extend the time in which your response must be provided to some or all of the questions.

Failure to provide the required information may result in the initiation of a civil action

pursuant to Section 205(b) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7524(b). Failure to provide all requested information in its entirety, and in the format requested, may result in additional inquiries and penalties. It is important that your responses be clear, accurate, and complete. We will regard submitted information that is misleading, false, incomplete, or submitted without regard to its accuracy as a violation of the CAA and/or criminal statutes. We may use any information submitted in response to this request in an administrative, civil, or criminal action.

Finally, you must submit all requested information under an authorized signature with the following certification (provided in Appendix D):

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 113(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(2), and 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 1341.

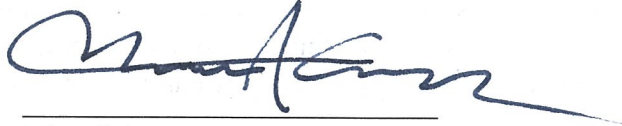
You are entitled to assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information you submit in response to this request, in accordance with the procedures described in the Confidentiality of Business Information (CBI) regulations, 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. However, no such CBI claim may be made with respect to emissions data as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a)(2). You must specify the page, paragraph, and sentence when identifying the information subject to your claim. Appendix E specifies the assertion and substantiation requirements for business confidentiality claims. The EPA may, without further notice, provide the public with any information not subject to a CBI claim.

Please submit all requested information, via electronic mail or express delivery, to:

Matt Salazar, Manager, Air Enforcement Office
Enforcement Division
Attn: Janice Chan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Enforcement Division (ENF-2-1)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Any questions concerning this Request for Information should be directed to Janice Chan in the EPA Region 9 Enforcement Division at (415) 972-3308 or chan.janice@epa.gov, or your attorney may contact Ryan Bickmore in the EPA Region 9 Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 972-3058 or bickmore.ryan@epa.gov.

9.22.2017
Date



Matt Salazar, P.E., Manager
Air & TRI Section
Enforcement Division
EPA Region 9 – San Francisco

Appendix A

Definitions

1. All terms used in this Request for Information will have their ordinary meaning unless such terms are defined in the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401 et seq., or the Motor Vehicle Regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 85, 86, and 1068.
2. The terms “affiliate” or “affiliated” are used to indicate a relationship to a specified person, and mean any person that, directly or indirectly or through one or more intermediaries, owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with such person (other than entities serving solely as customs brokers).
3. The terms “document” and “documents” means any object that records, stores, or presents information, and includes, without limitation, email, writings, memoranda, contracts, agreements, records, or information of any kind, formal or informal, whether wholly or partially handwritten or typed, whether in computer format, memory, or storage device, or in hardcopy, including any form or format of these. If in computer format or memory, each such document shall be provided in translation to a form useable and readable by EPA, with all necessary documentation and support. All documents in hard copy shall also include attachments to or enclosures with any document.
4. The term “Emission Related Parts” means those parts installed on motor vehicles for the specific purpose of controlling emissions or those components, systems, or elements of design which must function properly to assure continued vehicle emission compliance as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 85.2102 (including but not limited to a catalytic converter, an exhaust gas recirculation, a diesel particulate filter, a secondary catalytic reactor, a selective catalytic reduction, oxygen sensor, onboard diagnostics, and electronic control).
5. The term “end-user” means the person who ultimately uses or is intended to ultimately use a product.
6. The term “person” includes an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, joint venture, or any formal or informal entity, organization, or association.
7. The term “precious metals” means the metallic substrate used as the catalyst in a catalytic converter, including platinum, palladium, rhodium, copper, nickel, cerium, iron, and manganese.
8. The terms “you”, “your”, and “AMG” includes Advance Manufacturing Group U.S.A., Inc., dba OBX Racing Sports, and any affiliates, predecessors, successors, and assigns.

Appendix B

Instructions for Responses

1. Provide responses to this Request for Information in English, in written document form, and in electronic form using spreadsheet or word processing software (e.g., Word or Excel) or in PDF format.
2. This Request for Information is a continuing request. You must promptly supplement your response in the event you learn that you possess responsive documents or information not yet produced, or gain possession, custody or control of responsive documents or information after initially responding to this Request for Information.
3. Where documents or information necessary for a response are not in your possession, custody, or control, indicate in your response why such information is not available or in your possession, custody, or control, and identify any source that either possesses or is likely to possess such information.
4. All submitted documents should be copies and not original documents.
5. If AMG has previously submitted to EPA information requested herein, please re-submit the information in the format requested.
6. You must maintain an unaltered and complete copy of your website as it exists at the time this letter is received. This includes all pages, graphical elements, and text displayed on the website. You must provide this information in readable electronic format to EPA within ten days upon request.

Appendix C

Request for Information

Advance Manufacturing Group U.S.A., Inc. dba OBX Racing Sports ("AMG" or "you") must submit the following information to the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7542, regarding the distribution, sale, and/or offering for sale of certain aftermarket parts for motor vehicles.

1. Identify each exhaust system or exhaust system component ("component"), including product kits, offered for sale or sold by AMG during the period from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter that enables the customer or end-user to bypass, defeat, or otherwise render inoperative motor vehicle Emission Related Parts. Examples of these types of components include, but are not limited to, straight pipes, test pipes, catless headers, catless downpipes, and EGR delete. Such components include on your website at www.obxracingports.com and all related pages.

Be advised that this Request for Information pertains to all components described herein that make it possible for customers or end-users to bypass Emission Related Parts regardless of any claims made by AMG that a particular component is for testing or race use only, or any other similar claims.

2. For each component identified in response to Question 1, provide the following information:
 - a. State the AMG part number and identifying name, the part number and identifying name from the manufacturer (if different), and the vehicle applications by make, model, and year.
 - b. Describe the function of the component and explain how it enables the customer or end-user to bypass, defeat, or otherwise render inoperative Emission Related Parts. If the component removes the catalytic converter, indicate whether the component is advertised as containing a catalytic converter.
 - c. Provide copies of the technical documentation for each component, including, but not limited to, product manuals, technical specifications, and installation and operating instructions.
 - d. Indicate whether the component is accompanied by the following disclaimers, statements, or other similar language in any documentation, marketing materials, advertisements, websites, or other media:
 - "For test use only"
 - "This product is not intended to be installed on vehicles registered for highway use"
 - "For off-road/race use only"

Provide references to all materials containing such statements.

- e. If AMG has recommended that the component be used for testing or racing use only, describe the mechanisms, if any, that AMG has implemented to ensure that the component is only used for such purposes.
 - f. State the quantity that was sold by AMG to customers with shipping addresses in the United States during each year from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 - g. Provide copies of receipts for each component sold by AMG to customers with shipping addresses in the United States during each year from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 - h. State the quantity that was sold by AMG to wholesalers, retailers, distributors, or authorized dealers during each year from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 - i. Provide copies of invoices or receipts for each component sold by AMG to all wholesalers, retailers, distributors, or authorized dealers from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
3. Identify each aftermarket catalytic converter offered for sale by AMG during the period from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 4. For each component identified in response to Question 3, provide the following:
 - a. State the AMG part number and identifying name, and the part number and identifying name from the manufacturer (if different).
 - b. Indicate whether the aftermarket catalytic converter is covered by an Executive Order from the California Air Resources Board.
 - c. Indicate whether the aftermarket catalytic converter contains precious metals.
 - d. State the quantity that was sold by AMG to consumers with shipping addresses in the United States during each year from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 - e. State the quantity that was sold by AMG to wholesalers, distributors, or authorized dealers during each year from January 1, 2015 through the date of this letter.
 5. Provide the name and address of each location where any of the components identified in response to Questions 1 and 3 have been or currently are being stored by AMG.
 6. Describe the organizational structure of AMG, and identify any parent and/or subsidiary companies affiliated with AMG.
 7. Provide a copy of your articles of incorporation and by-laws.

8. Identify your current net worth and annual revenue for the past calendar or fiscal year.
9. Identify each person responsible for responding to this Request for Information, including their title, and the question(s) to which they responded.

Appendix D

Statement of Certification

You are submitting the enclosed documents in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Request for Information, issued pursuant to Section 208(a) of the Clean Air Act, to determine compliance with the Clean Air Act and its affiliated regulations.

I certify that I am fully authorized by _____ [corporate affiliation] to provide the above information on its behalf to EPA.

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 113(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(2), and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 1341.

Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Appendix E

Confidential Business Information

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of the information you provide in response to this Request for Information for any business information entitled to confidential treatment under Section 208(c) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7542, and 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. Under Section 208(c) of the CAA, you are entitled to confidential treatment of information that would divulge methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets. Under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B, business confidentiality means the concept of trade secrecy and other related legal concepts which give (or may give) a business the right to preserve the confidentiality of business information and to limit its use or disclosure by others in order that the business may obtain or retain business advantages it derives from its rights in the information. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 2.201(e).

Information covered by a claim of business confidentiality will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in Section 208(c) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. The EPA will construe your failure to furnish a business confidentiality claim with your response to this Request for Information as a waiver of that claim, and the information may be made available to the public without further notice to you.

To assert a business confidentiality claim, you must place on (or attach to) all information you desire to assert as business confidential either a cover sheet, stamped or typed legend, or other suitable form of notice employing language such as trade secret, proprietary, or company confidential at the time you submit your response to this Request for Information. Allegedly confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified, and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by the EPA. You should indicate if you desire confidential treatment only until a certain date or until the occurrence of a certain event.

The criteria the EPA will use in determining whether material you claim as business confidential is entitled to confidential treatment are set forth at 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.208 and 2.301. These regulations provide, among other things, that you must satisfactorily show that: (1) the information is within the scope of business confidentiality as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.201(e), (2) that you have taken reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information and that you intend to continue to do so, (3) the information is not and has not been reasonably obtainable by legitimate means without your consent, and (4) the disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to your business competitive edge. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 2.208 (a)-(d). Emission data, as defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a)(2), is expressly not entitled to confidential treatment under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, subpart B. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7542(c); 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(e).

If you assert a claim of business confidentiality in connection with information and documents forwarded in response to this request for information, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(4), the EPA is requesting that you answer the following questions with respect to any information or document for which you assert a claim of business confidentiality:

1. What specific portions of the information are alleged to be entitled to confidential treatment? Specify by page, paragraph, and sentence when identifying the information subject to your claim.
2. For what period of time do you request that the information be maintained as confidential, e.g., until a certain date, until the occurrence of a specified event, or permanently? If the occurrence of a specific event will eliminate the need for confidentiality, specify that event. Additionally, explain why the information should be protected for the time period you've specified.
3. What measures have you taken to protect the information claimed as confidential from undesired disclosure? Have you disclosed the information to anyone other than a governmental body or someone who is bound by an agreement not to disclose the information further? If so, why should the information still be considered confidential?
4. Is the information contained in any publicly available material such as the Internet, publicly available databases, promotional publications, annual reports or articles? Is there any means by which a member of the public could obtain access to the information? Is the information of a kind that you would customarily not release to the public?
5. Has any governmental body made a determination as to the confidentiality of the information? If so, please attach a copy of the determination.
6. For each category of information claimed as confidential, explain with specificity whether disclosure of the information is likely to result in substantial harm to your competitive position. Explain the specific nature of those harmful effects, why they should be viewed as substantial, and the causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effect. How could your competitors make use of this information to your detriment?
7. Is there any other explanation you deem relevant to the EPA's determination of your business confidentiality claim that is not covered in the preceding questions? If so, you may provide such additional explanation.

You must furnish comments to the above questions concurrent with your response to this Information Request if you have claimed any information as business confidential. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(2). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.205(b)(2), you may request an extension of this deadline. The EPA will construe your failure to furnish timely comments as a waiver of your confidentiality claim, consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(1). Please submit your comments to:

Janice Chan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Enforcement Division (ENF-2-1)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.205(c), you are hereby advised that information you submit as part of your comments may be entitled to confidential treatment if, when it is received by the EPA, it is marked in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). As required by 40 C.F.R. § 2.204(e)(6), you may assert a business confidentiality claim covering all or part of your response to these questions, as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Information covered by such a business confidentiality claim will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in Section 208(c) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2. The EPA will construe the failure to furnish a confidentiality claim with your comments as a waiver of that claim, and the information may be made available to the public without further notice to you.

U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu

EPA's OSDBU advocates and advances business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)

www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman or 1-800-368-5888

The EPA ASBO serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

<https://nationalsbeap.org>

This program provides a "one-stop shop" for small businesses and assistance providers seeking information on a wide range of environmental topics and state-specific environmental compliance assistance resources.

EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

www.epa.gov/compliance

This page is a gateway to industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

Compliance Assistance Centers

www.complianceassistance.net

EPA sponsored Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

Agriculture

www.epa.gov/agriculture

Automotive Recycling

www.ecarcenter.org

Automotive Service and Repair

www.ccar-greenlink.org or 1-888-GRN-LINK

Chemical Manufacturing

www.chemalliance.org

Construction

www.cicacenter.org

Education

www.campuserc.org

Food Processing

www.fpeac.org

Healthcare

www.hercenter.org

Local Government

www.lgean.org

Surface Finishing

<http://www.sterc.org>

Paints and Coatings

www.paintcenter.org

Printing

www.pneac.org

Ports

www.portcompliance.org

Transportation

www.tercenter.org

U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

www.bordercenter.org

EPA Hotlines and Clearinghouses

www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Examples include:

Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line

www.epa.gov/catc or 1-919-541-0800

Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center

1-800-424-9346

EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline

www.epa.gov/otaq/imports or 1-734-214-4100

National Pesticide Information Center

www.npic.orst.edu or 1-800-858-7378

National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills - <http://nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) -

www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic or 1-202-566-0799

Safe Drinking Water Hotline -

www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline or 1-800-426-4791

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

tsc hotline@epa.gov or 1-202-554-1404

Small Entity Compliance Guides

<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/small-entity-compliance-guides>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

Regional Small Business Liaisons

www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

State Resource Locators

www.envcap.org/statetools

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

<https://nationalsbeap.org/states/list>

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

EPA's Tribal Portal

www.epa.gov/tribalportal

The Portal helps users locate tribal-related information within EPA and other federal agencies.

EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement

EPA's Audit Policy

www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy

Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.